

BROOKLINE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

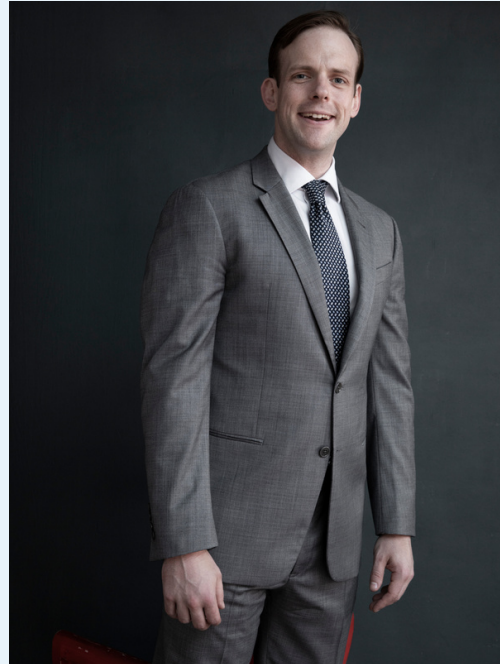
APRIL 2023

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Dear Brookline,

After several false starts, it really feels like spring has sprung, doesn't it? The flowers are blooming out in front of Town Hall and the great teams across multiple departments who've kept our roads safe and clear this winter are preparing to shift to their next big things.

It's hard to talk about spring without mentioning the big event: the Boston Marathon, with Brookline serving as always as the exhilarating home stretch. This year's event takes on a bittersweet tinge, however, as we remember those lost and wounded ten years ago at the marathon bombing. I want to acknowledge all those whose lives were impacted by that terrible violence, and many of our first responders who are still with us that displayed immense courage and resiliency in the unthinkable times that followed.



The Police Department is hosting a remembrance event on Saturday, April 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the garden between Public Safety Headquarters (350 Washington Street) and the courthouse. When I've spoken to people who selflessly went into danger in the aftermath of that event to do things seemingly as small as deliver supplies to families afraid to open their doors, I'm reminded of the fundamental decency and resiliency of this community. I hope you'll take a moment during the long weekend to acknowledge the milestone and reflect on what it means to many of our neighbors and friends.

The spring also brings about a fundamental shift regarding another disaster: COVID-19. As you may know, the federal government will officially declare an end to the national COVID emergency in May, completing our shift from pandemic to endemic footing. As a practical matter, the Town's position will not change: we welcome those who wish to use masks or remote services, and will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure the needs of those with disabilities or accessibility issues are met.

While this coming May Town Meeting will be solely in person due to the quirks of the Legislature's unexpected and lengthy renewal/expansion of its hybrid/remote meeting rules, the Select Board has directed staff to prepare expeditiously for a hybrid Town Meeting in November. In the interim, the efforts of the Brookline Interactive Group, our IT Department, and many other staffers here at Town Hall to equip meeting rooms for hybrid functionality mean that remote access for things like Select Board meetings will continue uninterrupted. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of those organizations if you are concerned about being able to see or attend an event.

Finally, because the universe is not without a sense of irony, shortly after the Select Board passed its first-ever [Code of Conduct](#) in December, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court published an opinion affirming the right of individuals speaking in a designated public comment period to be rude or even hateful to elected officials without the risk of those officials shutting the conversation down unless the speakers make actual threats of imminent violence or disorder. Fortunately, the Code of Conduct does not conflict with this ruling, but on a practical level, the two stand in philosophical tension.

On the one hand, it's great that members of the public can get upset without running the risk of a body using rules of decorum as a pretext to silence them. On the other, it's worth asking what the aim of a public comment is. If it's just to inveigh against elected officials and make them feel bad about the tough choices they have to make on a regular basis, well, fine. I guess that's "part of the job," though you can see (in declining participation nationwide and ugly scenes like people showing up to scream about stolen elections or books that dare to depict American history as anything other than perfect at school board meetings) how that's made elected and appointed public service less appealing.

But if the purpose of public comment to *convince* people of the merits of your position, even if it's not the people who you're in front of when you make it but the people who are watching in the hybrid audience or the community as a whole, it's worth thinking long and hard about how much you want to push your rhetorical limits. You can be mad. Sometimes you should be mad! The indignities of injustice can demand a visceral response. But if you cross a line and do something particularly cruel, like, say, bring a politician's family into a discussion, or accusing a staff member of being bought and paid for, you run a real risk of disengaging the people you need to engage in order for the changes you want to actually happen.

And so, even with the so-called "right to be rude" enshrined by our Commonwealth's highest court, I think it's always worth us asking: what do we want to accomplish? How will our words help us get there? I hope you'll find that the Code of Conduct provides not just suggestions for civility but a road map for more productive relationships between the government and the public.

Regards,
Chas

Current listening: [Deerhunter – Helicopter \(2010\)](#).

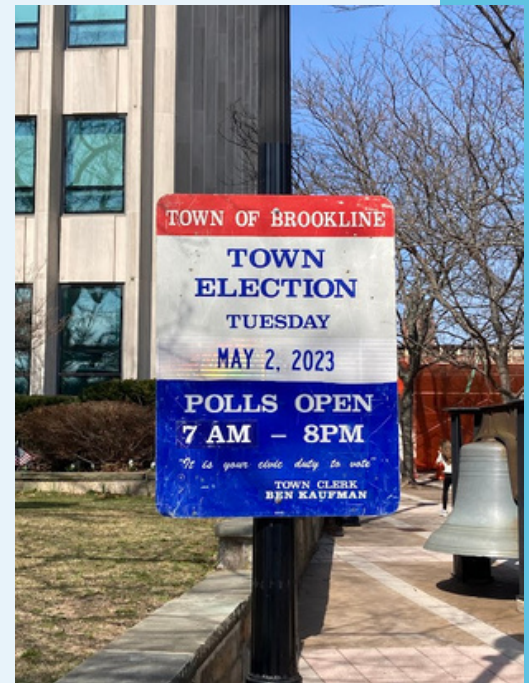
THE TOWN CLERK'S CORNER: ALL THINGS ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION - MAY 2, 2023

The Annual Town Election is scheduled for May 2! The deadline to register to vote is April 22. Voters have many ways to cast their ballot in the Annual Town Election.

Voters can request a Vote by Mail ballot be sent to them. Voters will receive a postcard to request a mailed ballot, or can request it online or in the Town Clerk's office. The deadline to request a Vote by Mail ballot is April 25.

Voters can vote early in-person. Early Voting will be open at Town Hall from April 22 until April 28. Early Voting will also be available at the Putterham Library on April 22, and at the Coolidge Corner Library on April 23. Voters can vote in-person on Election Day. Polls will be open on May 2 from 7am-8pm.

For more information about voting, visit brooklinema.gov/townclerk

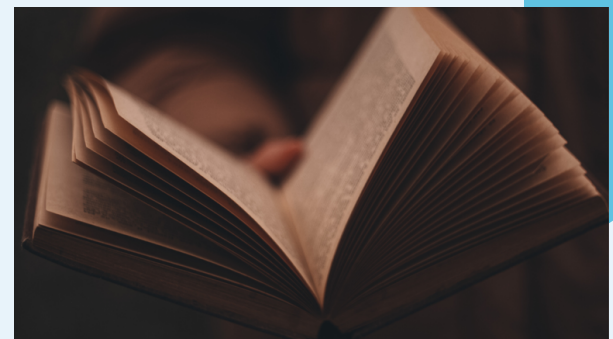


Tool Library One Year Anniversary Showcase

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Coolidge Corner Branch | Meeting Room
31 Pleasant Street, Brookline, MA 02446

Have you heard about our tool library, but wanted to learn more about what we have? Come stop by during our Tool Library Showcase on its first anniversary.

Learn more about what specific tools could be used for; check out the new tools we've added; and start preparing for summer projects around your place — without having to own everything you might need.



Whatever Happened to the Epic? with Robert Crossley and Jennifer Barber

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Brookline Village Branch | Hunneman Hall
361 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02445

Epic poems have often been viewed as the dinosaur of literature: huge, impressive, a little intimidating—and extinct. This presentation—which will welcome audience members to interact with the speakers—will take up several questions: Is it true that there hasn't been a significant epic in English since Milton's *Paradise Lost*? What forms has the epic imagination taken in the modern era? Do audiences still desire the epic experience? If they do, what satisfactions does the epic offer? And, finally, does the epic have any impact on practicing writers in our own day?

APRIL 2023

Community Quiz



Fair Housing
Month



Global Volunteering
Month

AND MORE!

Brookline Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations



April's Community Quiz

This April the Brookline Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations developed a community quiz to test your knowledge on Fair Housing, as well as on National Public Health Week, and Global Volunteering.

If you get a 10/10 your name will be entered into an end of the year Raffle for a prize!

Take the quiz here:

<https://brooklinema.gov/1514/Community-Quiz>

In case you missed it...

The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations released the 2023 Diverse and Inclusive Business Directory.

The directory highlights and celebrates Brookline's diverse, accessible, and inclusive independent business community. Through community canvassing and several online campaigns, Brookline businesses and organizations were invited and encouraged to be included in the new directory.



Ten new businesses were added to the directory this year. The directory features coffee shops, restaurants, shops, art studios, health studios, non-profits and more. The directory also houses a visual key, allowing users to determine businesses owned by Diverse Business Enterprises as well as those that are fully accessible.

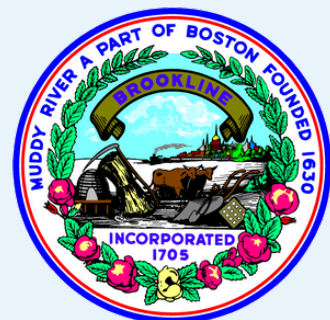
Brookline's Diverse and Inclusive Business Directory 2023

A downloadable version of Brookline's 2023 Diverse and Inclusive Business Directory is now available.

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/1981/Diverse-and-Inclusive-Business-Directory>

Contact Caitlin Starr, MPH, CDE at cstarr@brooklinema.gov



JONATHAN EIG DISCUSSES KING: A LIFE, WITH RANDALL KENNEDY

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee would like to invite you to celebrate the release of *King: A Life* with author Jonathan Eig, in conversation with Professor Randall Kennedy at the Brookline Booksmith on Friday May 19th at 7:00 PM.

Vividly written and exhaustively researched, Jonathan Eig's *King: A Life* is the first major biography in decades of the civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr.—and the first to include recently declassified FBI files. In this revelatory new portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, the bestselling biographer gives us an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself. He casts fresh light on the King family's origins as well as MLK's complex relationships with his wife, father, and fellow activists. King reveals a minister wrestling with his own human frailties and dark moods, a citizen hunted by his own government, and a man determined to fight for justice even if it proved to be a fight to the death. As he follows MLK from the classroom to the pulpit to the streets of Birmingham, Selma, and Memphis, Eig dramatically re-creates the journey of a man who recast American race relations and became our only modern-day founding father—as well as the nation's most mourned martyr.

In this landmark biography, Eig gives us an MLK for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history's greatest movements, and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.

Author Jonathan Eig is a former senior writer for The Wall Street Journal. He is the New York Times bestselling author of five books, including *Ali: A Life*, *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig*, and *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*. Ken Burns calls him "a master storyteller," and Eig's books have been listed among the best of the year by The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Sports Illustrated, and Slate. He lives in Chicago with his wife and children.

Moderator Randall Kennedy is Michael R. Klein Professor at Harvard Law School where he teaches courses on contracts, criminal law, and the regulation of race relations. Awarded the 1998 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award for Race, Crime, and the Law, Kennedy's other books include *For Discrimination: Race, Affirmative Action, and the Law* (2013), *The Persistence of the Color Line: Racial Politics and the Obama Presidency* (2011), and *Sellout: The Politics of Racial Betrayal* (2008). A member of the American Law Institute, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Association, Mr. Kennedy also writes for a wide range of scholarly and general interest publications.

The event is free, but registration is required. Visit: <https://www.brooklinema.gov/465/MLK-Celebration-Committee>



KING: A LIFE

JONATHAN EIG
with RANDALL KENNEDY

5.19.23 || 7PM ET

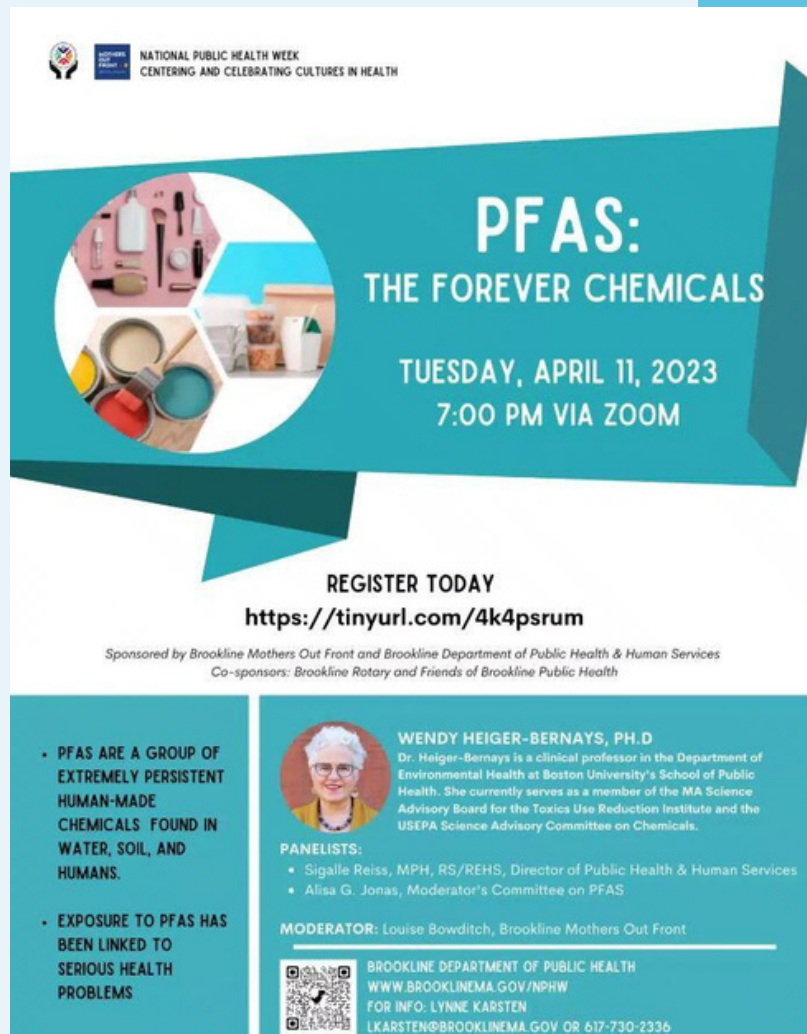
brookline
booksmith

EXPLORING PFAS DURING NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

The Brookline Department of Public Health, in collaboration with Brookline Mothers Out Front, invites the community to attend a virtual forum on the health effects of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

The forum will be held on April 11, beginning at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Those interested in participating are asked to register on the Town of Brookline website. A Zoom link will be sent to registrants before the event.

PFAS are chemicals that have been used in a wide range of consumer and industrial products since the 1940s due to their resistance to grease, oil, water, and heat. They are known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily in the environment or the human body. Some scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS may be linked to harmful health effects such as cancer, thyroid disease, immune system problems, and developmental issues.



The poster features a circular collage of images showing various household and industrial products like paint cans, tools, and containers. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a teal and white color scheme.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
CENTERING AND CELEBRATING CULTURES IN HEALTH

PFAS: THE FOREVER CHEMICALS


TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023
7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

REGISTER TODAY
<https://tinyurl.com/4k4psrum>

Sponsored by Brookline Mothers Out Front and Brookline Department of Public Health & Human Services
Co-sponsors: Brookline Rotary and Friends of Brookline Public Health

**PFAS ARE A GROUP OF
EXTREMELY PERSISTENT
HUMAN-MADE
CHEMICALS FOUND IN
WATER, SOIL, AND
HUMANS.**

**EXPOSURE TO PFAS HAS
BEEN LINKED TO
SERIOUS HEALTH
PROBLEMS**




WENDY HEIGER-BERNAYS, PH.D
Dr. Heiger-Bernays is a clinical professor in the Department of Environmental Health at Boston University's School of Public Health. She currently serves as a member of the MA Science Advisory Board for the Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the USEPA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals.

PANELISTS:

- Sigalle Reiss, MPH, RS/REHS, Director of Public Health & Human Services
- Alisa G. Jonas, Moderator's Committee on PFAS

MODERATOR: Louise Bowditch, Brookline Mothers Out Front

 **BROOKLINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
WWW.BROOKLINEMA.GOV/NPHW
FOR INFO: LYNNE KARSTEN
LKARSTEN@BROOKLINEMA.GOV OR 617-730-2336

Dr. Wendy Heiger-Bernays, Clinical Professor in the Department of Environmental Health at Boston University's School of Public Health, will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Heiger-Bernays serves as a member of the Massachusetts Science Advisory Board for the Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the USEPA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals.

Louise Bowditch of Brookline Mothers Out Front will moderate a panel discussion and question-and-answer session. Panelists will include Dr. Heiger-Bernays, Brookline Public Health Commissioner Sigalle Reiss; Alisa Jonas, Chair of the Moderator's Committee on PFAS.

This event is sponsored by Brookline Mothers Out Front and Brookline Department of Public Health & Human Services and co-sponsored by the Brookline Rotary Club and Friends of Brookline Public Health. This event is part of National Public Health Week, observed April 3-9, whose theme this year is “Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health.” For more information, please contact Lynne Karsten at lkarsten@brooklinema.gov or 617-730-2336.

SPRING CLEANING ALERT!

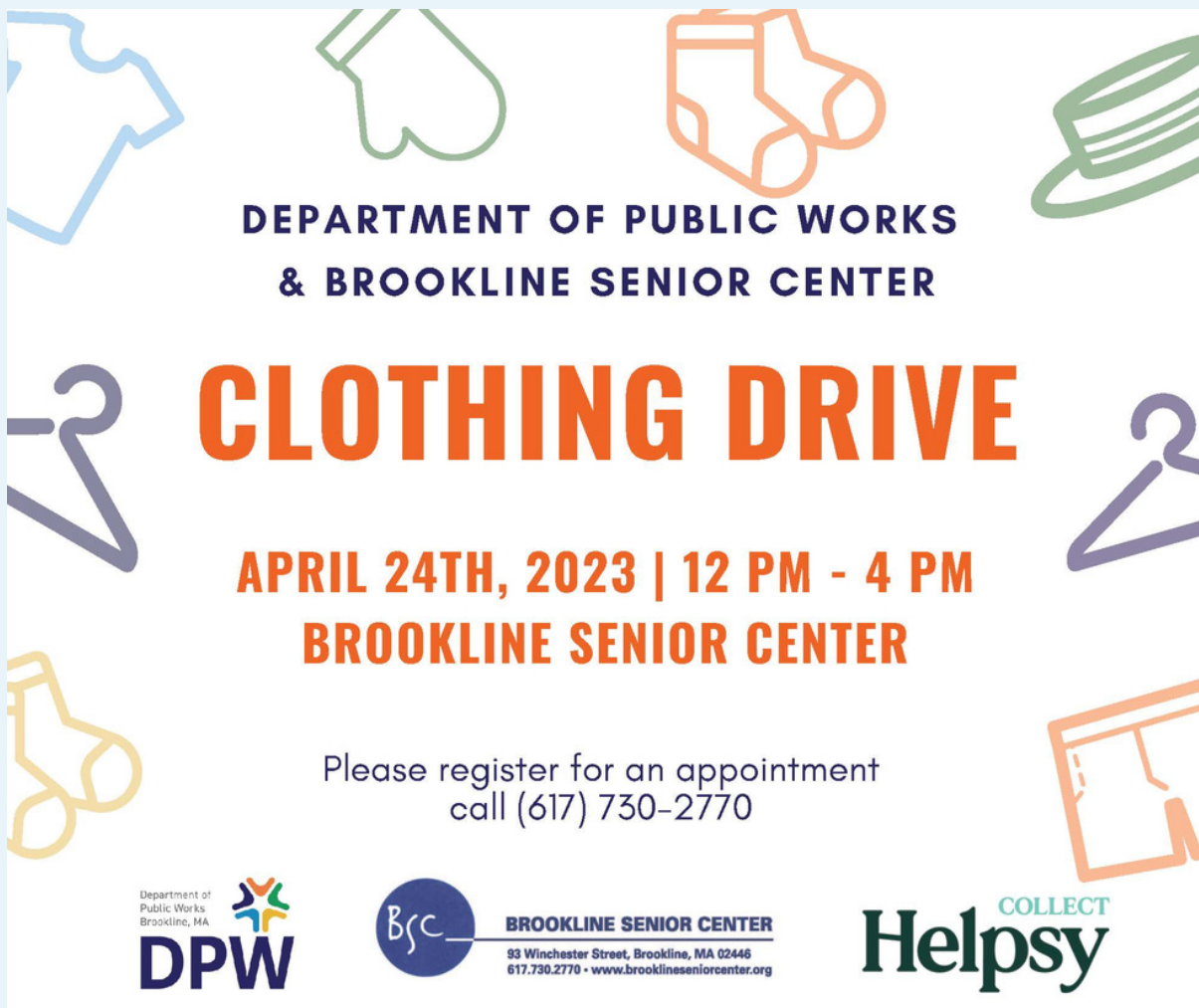
COA & DPW PARTNER ON APRIL CLOTHING DRIVE

'Tis the season! Spring cleaning is upon us! Did you know that in the state of Massachusetts, textiles can no longer be thrown in the trash? That's because 230,000 tons of textiles have historically been disposed of annually.

This year, Brookline Senior Center is partnering with Brookline's Department of Public Works to host a Spring Clothing Drive in celebration of Earth Day. Gather up all of your unwanted clothing, footwear, and home linens and bring them to the Senior Center so that they can be reused or recycled!

The clothing drive will take place on Monday, April 24 from 12:00 PM -4:00 PM at the Senior Center. To register for an appointment, call 617-730-2770. Please note: we will not be accepting any items prior to the clothing drive.

Brookline's textile recycling vendor, Helpsy, accepts clothing, footwear, home linens and even some accessories in any condition, so long as they are clean, dry and odorless. For a complete list of acceptable items and to learn more about textile recycling in Brookline, please visit www.brooklinema.gov/textiles.

A poster for a clothing drive. It features various line-art icons of clothing items: a blue shirt, green pants, orange socks, a green hat, a purple hanger, a yellow shoe, and an orange bag. The text is centered and reads: "DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & BROOKLINE SENIOR CENTER" in dark blue, "CLOTHING DRIVE" in large orange letters, "APRIL 24TH, 2023 | 12 PM - 4 PM" in orange, and "BROOKLINE SENIOR CENTER" in orange. Below this, it says "Please register for an appointment call (617) 730-2770". At the bottom are three logos: DPW (Department of Public Works, Brookline, MA), Brookline Senior Center (BSC) with address 93 Winchester Street, Brookline, MA 02446 and phone 617.730.2770, and Helpsy (COLLECT).

DPW 'SPRINGS' INTO ACTION: TOWN PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION, AND MORE



The Department of Public Works has a busy spring and summer construction schedule planned! The Town is excited to deliver on some major and exciting projects that you will see happening throughout the community in the near future. Here are just a few:

Margaret E Robinson Playground

The renovation of Robinson Playground, including new play equipment, site furnishings, tree planting, and accessibility improvements, is underway and scheduled to reach substantial completion in late Fall 2023.

John E. Murphy Playground

The renovation of Murphy Playground, including new play equipment, site furnishings, perimeter fencing, and accessibility improvements, will begin this summer and is scheduled to reach substantial completion in late Fall 2023.

Larz Anderson Roadway

The long-awaited repair and resurfacing of the Larz Anderson Roadway is anticipated to take place during the 2023 construction season. The Department of Public Works is currently reviewing bids from potential contractors and will have a more specific project timeline in the coming weeks.

Skyline Park Synthetic Turf Field Replacement

Following the completion of a robust Design Review Process for Phase 1 of the project, the Skyline Synthetic Turf Field construction/engineering documents are currently being drafted and prepared for bid. This is a two-phase project. Phase 1 in Summer 2023 includes the Synthetic Turf Field replacement. Phase 2, including tree planting, site furnishings, tree pruning and connection to Lost Pond, will follow in 2024. Assuming we receive a successful bid, construction on the field is anticipated to start in late spring or early summer 2023.

Baker School Tennis Courts Restoration and Improvements to D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary

Replacement and reconstruction of the Baker School Tennis Courts and perimeter path, as well as improvements to the D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary entrance, is scheduled to begin in the Summer 2023 with an anticipated completion in early Fall 2023.

Carlton Street Footbridge Rehabilitation

We are excited to wrap up the rehabilitation of the Carlton Street Footbridge this summer! Stay tuned for more details on a grand re-opening celebration later this year.



Sewer Infiltration and Inflow Project

The Department will issue construction contracts to install approximately 22,000 linear feet of cured-in-place sewer main liners along with sealing 170 sewer manholes to reduce the amount of infiltration entering the wastewater system. These projects are part of a system-wide rehabilitation program to line and seal the entire wastewater system by 2032. Lining sewer lines and sealing manholes improve the structural integrity of the assets and reduces the amount of groundwater infiltrating into the wastewater system, thus helping reduce unnecessary clear water from being sent to the MWRA for treatment.

Pavement Preservation

The Department plans to complete pavement preservation work on the following roads this spring/summer:

- **Summit Avenue** from Commonwealth Avenue to Beacon Street
- **Jordan Road** from Corey Road to Summit Avenue
- **Allendale Street** from the Town line to Grove Street

Accessible Pedestrian Signal Improvements

This multi-phase project includes retrofits of existing traffic signal and rectangular rapid flashing beacon systems to include accessible pedestrian push buttons and count down timers. These elements improve pedestrian access and safety at intersections and will help the Town achieve our collective goals around improving access for vision-impaired pedestrians; promoting our community's walkability; meeting the requirements of our Age-Friendly Community designation by the World Health Organization; and our Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Goals by encouraging & enabling travel mode shift. Planned locations include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Clyde St at Newton St | 10) Chestnut Hill Ave at Hyslop Rd |
| 2) Grove St at Allandale Rd | 11) Harvard St at Harvard Ave |
| 3) Grove St at Newton St | 12) Lagrange St at Princeton Rd |
| 4) Hammond St at Heath St | 13) Newton St at Princeton Rd |
| 5) Mountfort St at St Marys St | 14) Warren St at Dudley St |
| 6) Babcock St at Devotion St | 15) Washington St at Greenough St |
| 7) Beacon St EB at Winthrop Rd | |
| 8) Beacon St WB at Winthrop Rd | |
| 9) Chestnut Hill Ave at Ackers Ave | |

Street Rehabilitation

The Department is preparing contract bid documents to complete roadway resurfacing and sidewalk work on the following roads this year:

- **Walnut Street** from Dudley Street to Warren Street.
- **Chestnut Street** from Walnut Street to Kendall Street
- **Short Street** from Summit Avenue to Beacon Street
- **Kenwood Street** from Columbia Street to Harvard Street
- **Russell Street** from Columbia Street to Harvard Street.

Accessibility Improvements

The Department has plans to address accessible ramp improvements at various locations. Based on our comprehensive sidewalk and ramp index, we will be doing work on:

- **Longwood Avenue**
- **School Street**
- **Kent Street**
- **Francis Street**



The 127th Boston Marathon

The Boston Marathon is back! Several roads will be closed on Monday, April 17 to accommodate the 127th running of the Boston Marathon. Beacon Street will be closed to inbound traffic. Additionally, the following areas will be closed to traffic:

Chestnut Hill Ave at Clinton Road and Dean Road
Washington Street at Park Street
Harvard Street at Longwood Ave and Sewall Ave
Saint Paul Street at Longwood Ave and Sewall Ave
Sewall Ave at Marshall Street

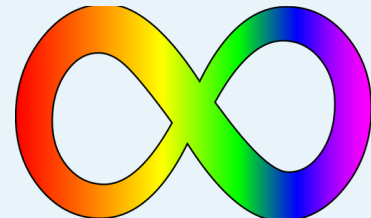


Roads will close starting at 9 a.m. on the day of the race and are expected to reopen around 5:30 p.m. Vehicles parked on Beacon Street will be towed beginning on Sunday, April 16, at 4 p.m. Residents are advised to plan ahead and seek alternative routes.

During the event, pedestrian crossing is only permitted on Beacon Street at Tappan, Webster and Hawes Streets. Crossing is permitted only if it is not a danger or obstruction to runners. Crossing is not permitted from approximately 1-3 p.m.

No traffic hearings will be held on Saturday or Monday.

April is Autism and Neurodiversity Acceptance Month



Each year in April, beginning with April 2nd (World Autism Awareness Day), we recognize Autism and Neurodiversity Acceptance Month. The focus is to accept and celebrate the differences in how human brains are wired, many times revealing "superpowers."

Neurodivergent is a nonmedical term that describes people whose brains develop or work differently for some reason. This means the person has different strengths and struggles from people whose brains develop or work more typically. While some people who are neurodivergent have medical conditions, it also happens to people where a medical condition or diagnosis hasn't been identified. (Cleveland Clinic) As we go about our days and interact with people at home, school, work, and in society, we are able to recognize and appreciate those differences. How we do that can include different ways of phrasing conversations, asking for things, providing guidance on tasks, or just providing a "moment of grace" for yourself or others having a challenging time.

While Autism is a specific type of neurodiversity that is characterized by difficulties with social interaction and communication and by restricted or repetitive patterns of thought and behavior, Neurodiversity can include a wide array of conditions including Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Dyslexia (difficulty with reading), dysgraphia (difficulty with writing), Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Down syndrome, and others.

In this month of Acceptance, celebrate the differences in how our brains are wired.

Town of Brookline Work Anniversaries - April 2023

We celebrate the work anniversaries of our employees who joined the Town of Brookline in the month of February over the years. As you can see by the department listing, they are providing a diverse array of services to the Town's employees, residents, businesses, and visitors. Thank you for your service!

Name	Department
Thomas O'Leary	Police - Criminal Investigation
Robert Simard	DPW
Ronald Cullen	DPW
David Ewanouski	DPW - Parks
Edward Amendola	Police - Patrol
Feng Yang	Information Technology
William Murphy	DPW - Highway
Derek Hayes	Police - Criminal Investigation
Casey Hatchett	Police
Ilya Gruber	Police
Brian Sutherland	Police
Paul Campbell	Police
Kyle Meachern	Fire
Brian Keaveney	Police
Fredrika Langenthal	Council on Aging
Edward Moores	Building

Name	Department
Jeremy Joseph	Fire
Tamboura Coleman	DPW - Parks
William McGroarty	Veterans' Services
Jessica White	DPW - Parks
Nicholas Cannell	Building
Peter Moyer	Fire
Timothy Anastasw	Fire
Ryan Buckley	Fire
Marcos Renderos	Fire
Louis Hill	DPW
Alan Hunte	Fire
Thomas Richards	Information Technology
Kyle Ward	Fire
Aaron Cecil	Fire
Stephen Chin	Fire
Grayson Russell	Fire
James Goff	Fire
Matthew McMahon	Fire

Name	Department
David Heavey	Fire
Paulo DaSilva	Police
Sean Driscoll	Police
Maseana Wright	Police
Seth Mucha-Kangas	Police
Gustanio Mady	Police
Timothy Novak	Police
Shinai Hattori	Police
Jessica Milley-Gee	Council on Aging
Alexander Loden	Fire
Eric Dumas	Fire
Olivia Mosquera	Fire
Brian Keeley	Fire
Francis Mulkern	Fire
Xavier Villar	Fire
Samuel Kaplan	Fire
Brian Mosca	Fire
Brendan Mulkern	Fire

Name	Department
Kenneth Labonte	Fire
Tanesha Bland	Information Technology
Paul Scarborough	Purchasing
Ryan Kasala	Human Resources
Ryan Brennan	Library - Administration
Derek Hoyt	DPW - Water



*Thank
you!*